

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2001

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06560

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, CU

SUBJECT: CUBA AND THE FRG; BRANDT'S NORTH AFRICAN TRIP

1. ON THE MARGIN OF A MEETING OF THE THREE ALLIED AMBASSADORS AND STATE SECRETARY FRANK ON APRIL 24 DEALING WITH ANOTHER SUBJECT, FRANK CALLED ME ASIDE TO INFORM ME OF A RECENT DEVELOPMENT REGARDING CUBA. REFERRING TO BRANDT'S AGREEMENT TO KEEP US INFORMED ON MATTERS VIS-A-VIS CUBA, FRANK SAID THAT BOUMEDIENNE HAD PASSED THROUGH HAVANA ON HIS RETURN TRIP FROM THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION AND THAT CASTRO HAD ASKED HIM TO CONVEY A MESSAGE TO BRANDT INDICATING CUBAN INTEREST IN RE-ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH THE FRG. FRANK SAID THAT WHEN BOUMEDIENNE PASSED THE MESSAGE THE CHANCELLOR'S REPLY WAS LIMITED ONLY TO EXPRESSION OF FRG WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE CUBAN REPRESENTATIVES FOR DISCUSSION. FRANK NOTED THAT BECAUSE SEVERAL FRG CITIZENS WERE IMPRISONED IN CUBA, AND BECAUSE OF OUTSTANDING FRG CLAIMS AGAINST CUBA, THERE WAS FRG INTEREST IN TALKING WITH HAVANA. AT SAME TIME, FRANK INDICATED THAT BONN WAS APPROACHING OVERALL MATTER IN LOW KEY, UNHURRIED MANNER. COMMENT: THE GERMAN PRESS IS CARRYING STORIES REPORTING THAT THE FONOFF HAS CONFIRMED FRG-CUBA CONTACTS ON THE MATTER OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE STORIES NOTE THAT THE FONOFF
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WOULD NOT GO BEYOND SIMPLE CONFIRMATION, AND SAY THAT

BONN BELIEVES PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER WOULD NOT
BE HELPFUL. END COMMENT.

2. REGARDING BRANDT'S NORTH AFRICAN TRIP, FRANK
RESPONDED TO MY QUESTION BY SAYING HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH
THE CHANCELLOR HOW WE WOULD BE BRIEFED, WHETHER BY
LETTER TO YOU OR BY DISCUSSION HERE IN BONN.
FRANK LATER CALLED ME TO SAY THAT THE CHANCELLOR WOULD
BE SENDING YOU A LETTER GIVING THE IMPRESSIONS OF HIS
TRIP, AND IT WAS HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE SENT TODAY
(APRIL 25).
HILLENBRAND

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